

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is submitted to more clearly set forth the claimed invention and to highlight the differences between the claimed invention and the cited prior art.

The present method enables a plurality of user's to each individually operate a user computer system to remotely retrieve discrete data units from one of a plurality of electronic publications stored on a central computer system. The method comprises with the steps of establishing a library database which is comprised of a plurality of electronic publications in which each of the electronic publications is comprised of a plurality of discrete data units generally containing subject matter not found in the other electronic publications. By way of example, the library database can be a plurality of high school text books (e.g. an English text book, a Math text book, etc.). Each of the electronic publications (e.g. text books) generally contains different subject matter from the others.

The method further requires establishing a user profile database with each individual user profile comprising at least one target electronic publication selected from the plurality of electronic publications. By way of example, a student is assigned individual text books and establishes a user profile to include those text books from the plurality of text books that may be available.

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Step (c) concerns receiving a request for one or more of the desired data units of one of the target electronic publications from the user and enabling the user to selectively retrieve said one or more data units. By way of example, a data unit may be a chapter of a text book or portion thereof.

Step (d) requires validating the user's request by comparing the request with information stored in the individual user profile so that the user may be restricted to access only those electronic publications (e.g. text books) which have been established for the user.

Once there has been a determination of the validity of the user's request, the desired data units are transmitted to the user computer system and then displayed so that the user can perform the desired task (e.g. a homework assignment in connection with a selected data unit from one of the electronic publications).

All of the claims of the application have been rejected as obvious over Herz (U.S. Patent No. 6,460,036).

Herz is stated to disclose all of the limitations of the claims except for specifying one database in a central computer. Reference is made to Figure 2 which is alleged to show a customized electronic identification of desirable objects such as new articles in an electronic media environment and to a system that automatically constructs both a target profile for each target object in the electronic media as well as a target profile interest summary for each user. The Office Action concludes that

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the use of a single database and a central computer and the use of network servers with a network of databases are equivalents in the art and that it would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use one massive database in one computer instead of a network of servers with databases in order to improve the maintainability of the system. The rejection is hereby traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As will be shown below, the Herz prior art system does not employ a library database comprised of a plurality of electronic publications with discrete data units generally containing subject matter not found in the other of the electronic publications. Furthermore, there is no teaching or suggestion of establishing a user profile database in a central computer for storing a plurality of individual user profiles with each individual user profile comprising at least one target electronic publication selected from a plurality of electronic publications.

Herz beginning at column 5, line 8 states that the system for electronic identification of desirable objects automatically constructs a target profile for each target object such as, for example, the frequency with which each word appears in an article relative to its overall frequency. Thus, the Herz system is concerned with an open ended database of publications all of which are targeted for possible use by the user. To the contrary, the present invention is concerned with establishing a library database of only a select group of electronic publications (e.g. text books). These select electronic publications are separate and apart from each other and information contained therein are not accumulated by the user such as through

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frequency of word identification. Instead, the user selects a finite group of electronic publications as part of the user profile and then accesses select portions (e.g. chapter) of each of electronic publication (e.g. text book).

The Herz system when using frequency of word access could not perform the objects of the present invention. For example, in the present system the user may select five electronic publications (e.g. text books) each directed to a different subject area (e.g. English, Math, etc.). It would not make sense if the system as described in Herz identified the same words that appear in each of the electronic publications. That is not the object of the present invention and that is not how the present invention operates.

The purpose of the present invention is to access, one at a time , a select electronic publication to obtain discrete data units to enable the user to complete a task using the discrete data unit within the electronic publication. Nothing is taught or suggested in Herz of the method of the present invention.

As indicated beginning at column 5, line 23, Herz describes each user as being presented with a target object whose profiles most closely match the user's interest as described by the user's target profile interest summary. The user's target profile interest summaries are then automatically updated on a continuing basis to reflect each user's changing interests. In addition, target objects can be grouped into clusters and menus automatically generated for each cluster of target objects to

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allow user's to navigate through the clusters and manually locate target objects of interest.

In this description, there is no teaching or suggestion of establishing a library database of a select group of electronic publications wherein the purpose of the claimed method is to provide access to discrete data units of a single electronic publication so that the user may perform a task wherein each electronic publication generally contains subject matter which is different from another electronic publication.

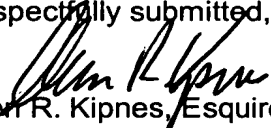
Instead, Herz is principally concerned with integrating information from a variety of different sources and to update that integration so that the user can be provided with a current consolidated source of information of interest to the user. This in no way teaches or suggests a user friendly system in which the user may gain access to a specific electronic publication and discrete data units therein in order to perform a task such as a homework assignment.

It is therefore submitted that the present application with claims as amended describes a method which is not taught or suggested by the cited reference. Early passage to issue of the present application is therefore deemed proper and is respectfully requested.

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It is believed that no fee is due in connection with this matter. However, if any fee is due, it should be charged to Deposit Account No. 23-0510.

Respectfully submitted,



Allen R. Kipnes, Esquire
Registration No. 28,433
Attorney for Applicant

Address All Correspondence to:
Allen R. Kipnes, Esquire
WATOV & KIPNES, P.C.
P.O. Box 247
Princeton Junction, NJ 08550
(609) 243-0330